

**Senior Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 13, 2011
Town Hall, Old Town Road
10:30 a.m.**

Present: Chair Gail Pierce, Dorothy Graham, Linda Spak, Sandra Kelly, Janet Merritt, and Mimi Leveille. Marguerite Donnelly, Betsy Theve and Betsey DeMaggio were absent. Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes was present for the recording of minutes.

Gail Pierce called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Approve Minutes of August 16, 2011 Meeting

Ms. Leveille moved to approve the minutes of August 16, 2011. Ms. Merritt seconded the motion and it carried.

6 Ayes (Pierce, Merritt, Graham, Kelly, Spak, Leveille) 0 Nays
3 Absent (DeMaggio, Donnelly, Theve)

Monthly Activities Committee

- September 23, 2011 - Roger Williams Park Zoo. Ms. Spak will handle promotion and sign-up.
- October 27, 2011 - Bowling trip with lunch. Ms. Kelly will handle promotion and sign-up.
- November 21, 2011 - Movie trip with lunch. Ms. Leveille will handle promotion and sign-up.
- December - Newport Mansion tour. Date to be announced. Ms. Pierce will check the tour schedule and set a date.

Ms. Pierce moved to amend the agenda and address item #6 Update on Ongoing Activities now. Ms. Merritt seconded the motion and it carried.

6 Ayes (Pierce, Merritt, Graham, Kelly, Spak, Leveille) 0 Nays
3 Absent (DeMaggio, Donnelly, Theve)

Update on Ongoing Activities:

Block Island Bulletin Board

Ms. Kelly reported that there are currently 96 members of the Block Island Bulletin Board and there have been 70 to 80 postings. Ms. Pierce will draft and circulate in the community, flyers and takeaway cards with instructions regarding signing up with and sending messages on the Bulletin Board.

Restaurants with senior discounts

This item will be addressed next month.

Swimming Pool

Ms. Spak noted that payments have been made to the Neptune House from the Town for Town sponsored swim programs. Ms. Pierce reported that the Town's insurance seems to cover Town pool activities. She suggested that a pool professional come look at the pool to make suggestions for the best stair applications. Ms. Spak will write a letter to the Neptune House Board of Directors requesting to be on their next meeting agenda to discuss the addition of stairs.

FISH – Reorganize

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Soup Group and Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will begin in October with the date to be determined.

Tax Exemption

This item will not be addressed at this time.

Senior Moment Pamphlet

Ms. Kelly distributed a draft of the revised Senior Moments pamphlet. The draft will be reviewed at next meeting.

Town Wide Communication/Updates to Residents, Especially During an Emergency

Ms. Pierce stated that she was concerned by the lack of communication from the Town leading up to hurricane Irene. Ms. Merritt stated that the Town needs a mechanism to get the word out to the townspeople during an emergency. Ms. Merritt will draft a letter to the Town Council asking what kind of emergency plans and emergency alert systems are in place. The letter will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Status of Town Website

It was noted that the Town's website is outdated.

Include our Committee Name and Member Information in the Telephone Directory

Ms. Kelly will request that the Senior Advisory Committee and the Block Island Bulletin Board be included in the next version of the Block Island phone directory.

Linnea Tuttle from Tri -Town offer to hold a discussion on open enrollment for Medicare D program and SNAP and heating assistance program

Ms. Pierce noted that Ms. Tuttle of Tri-Town is interested in speaking with the Block Island senior population about Medicare D, the SNAP program and the heating assistance program. Ms. Leveille will work with Ms. Tuttle to set up a presentation.

Status of Mental Health Task Force Committee

It was noted that the Mental Health Task Force Committee met recently. Ms. Pierce will represent the Senior Advisory Committee and contact Steve Holloway to join the Task Force.

Public Input

Ms. Merritt submitted Elder Care Reports from the early 1990's that she received from Janet Zeigler. Ms. Pierce will review them.

A future tour of the North Light Fibers factory was suggested.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Leveille made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Ms. Kelly seconded with all in favor.

Millie McGinnes, Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: November 15, 2011 83582

